

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method for the effective treatment of articulating joint surface cartilage by the transplantation of chondrocytes, to a surface to be treated, the method comprising the steps: (a) removing cartilage from the surface to be treated; (b) placing chondrocytes upon the surface to be treated; and (c) covering the surface to be treated with an absorbable covering cap.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the covering cap has a porous surface.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the porous surface of the covering cap is directed toward the surface to be treated.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the covering cap is collagen.
5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the covering cap contains hyaluronic acid.
6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the covering cap is cell free.
7. (Original) A method for the effective treatment of articulating joint surface cartilage by the transplantation of chondrocytes, to a surface to be treated, the method comprising the steps: (a) placing chondrocytes in a defect of the articulating joint surface; and (b) covering the surface to be treated with an absorbable covering cap.
8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the covering cap has a porous surface.
9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the porous surface of the covering cap is directed toward the surface to be treated.
10. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the covering cap is collagen.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein the covering cap is cell free.
12. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the covering cap contains hyaluronic acid.
13. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the covering cap is partially attached to the surface to be treated prior to placing of the chondrocytes on the surface to be treated in said step (b).
14. Canceled.
15. Canceled.
16. Canceled.
17. (New) A cartilage repair structure comprising:
 - (a) a cell-free matrix comprising hyaluronic acid; and
 - (b) chondrocyte cells adjacent said matrix.
18. (New) The cartilage repair structure of claim 17, wherein said chondrocyte cells are adhered to a surface of said matrix.
19. (New) The cartilage repair structure of claim 17, wherein said chondrocyte cells are autologous.
20. (New) The cartilage repair structure of claim 17, wherein said chondrocyte cells are allogenic.
21. (New) The cartilage repair structure of claim 17, wherein said chondrocyte cells are xenogenic.

22. (New) The cartilage repair structure of claim 17, wherein said matrix is bioresorbable.
23. (New) The cartilage repair structure of claim 17, wherein said matrix includes a porous surface.
24. (New) The cartilage repair structure of claim 23, wherein said chondrocytes are adjacent the porous surface of said matrix.